

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

ASIAN CLAM

(*Corbicula fluminea*)

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

www.reportinvasives.ca

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS CLAM?

DESCRIPTION

- Native to Southeast Asia and parts of central and eastern Australia, Africa, Indonesia and Turkey.
- Shell is triangular shaped and usually less than 2.5 cm but up to 6.5 cm in length, and yellow-green to light-brown in color with elevated growth rings.
- They are found in brackish to freshwater rivers, lakes, streams, canals and reservoirs.
- Found at the sediment surface or slightly buried in silt, sand or gravel substrates.
- They are filter-feeders, and prefer flowing water and they have a low tolerance for polluted or near freezing water temperatures.
- Their life span is about 1-7 years and they can self-fertilize and reproduce rapidly, with a single clam producing up to 70,000 eggs/year.
Asian clams can spread by human transport and water currents and have been sold for aquarium use

Image: www.midlandangling.com



PRIMARY THREAT: Biofouling of power plants, water treatment systems and pipes, they can alter water chemistry and drinking water (algal blooms), and cause loss of biodiversity due to competition for food and space with native species.

CURRENT STATUS

January 2015 – Four confirmed locations in the Lower Fraser River, one in the Pitt River, two in the Coquitlam River and in one lake on Southern-Vancouver Island. Risk assessment for Asian clam is in progress and extent surveys have been completed in parts of the lower mainland. Eradication of Asian clams in infested open waters is unlikely due to their rapid spread and high density.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Asian clam is thought to have originally been introduced into the United States in 1938 by Chinese immigrants as a food item.

DISTRIBUTION

Asian clams are found in approximately 38 US States and three of the Great Lakes (Erie, Michigan, and Superior). In Canada they have been reported in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia

LOOK-ALIKES

Juveniles can resemble fingernail clams (*Pisidiidae spp.*) but they are not native or present in BC.

